



## MINUTES

### ENGAGING AND COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**North Shore  
9 December 2015**

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**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter Besseling  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Intemann  
Councillor Robert Turner  
Councillor Geoffrey Hawkins  
Councillor Trevor Sargeant

Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)  
Jeffery Sharp (Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management)  
Tricia Bulic (Director of Community and Economic Growth)  
Matt Rogers (Director of Development and Environment Services)

13 community members

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Justin Levido  
Councillor Adam Roberts  
Councillor Michael Cusato  
Councillor Sharon Griffiths  
Rebecca Olsen (Director Corporate and Organisational Services)

The Mayor welcomed those in attendance and introduced the Councillors and Council staff members present.

The Mayor also provided the Acknowledgement of Country.

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 1 Submitted</b>	Is it possible for Council to liaise with Kempsey Shire Council and request they place a sign at the start of Maria River Road when ferry is broken down or accident occurs on Highway?
<b>Comments</b>	<p>It is very rare that both ferries are out of action at the one time. Placing a sign at the start of Maria River Road notifying of a ferry break down is likely to cause confusion among drivers as one ferry will usually still be in operation.</p> <p>Without having spoken to Kempsey Shire about this as yet, it is Council's view that to undertake this would require Kempsey Shire resources to be taken away from other operations that they would be undertaking for their community and it is unlikely that they will be able to accommodate this request. However, Council staff will contact Kempsey Shire Council regarding their interest in placing signage at appropriate events.</p> <p>For information, when an accident occurs on the highway Police will redirect traffic as appropriate.</p>
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Sharp responded in line with the comments above. The residents feel this is a major issue that needs addressing. Could Council consider having ferry outages / changes on local radio stations when something has occurred or is planned to occur? The North Shore should be seen as another gateway into Port Macquarie.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to make contact with Kempsey Council with regard to this issue.</b></p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to give consideration to whether Council could place a sign at the local government area boundary with Kempsey that would inform people of general information about the condition of the road etc.</b></p> <p><b>Action - Directors Bulic &amp; Sharp to give consideration to broadening the communications plans to radio when there are issues with the ferries.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 2 Submitted</b>	What can Council do to minimise damage to houses by trucks along Shoreline Drive?
<b>Comments</b>	Trucks have a legal right of carriage over Shoreline Drive and Council maintain the road to the standards we can resource in line with this.
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Sharp responded in line with the above and sought clarification of whether the issue was structural. The issue is structural and also relates to the speed of trucks using the road. Previously residents had discussions with all relevant authorities about reducing the speed limit; however the RMS rejected this change at the time.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp and the General Manager will raise this issue in our next meeting with the RMS, noting that speed limit changes need to go before the Local Traffic Committee.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 3 Submitted</b>	Is it possible to have one extra grade per year for Plomer and Maria River Roads due to increased tourist usage?
<b>Comments</b>	Plomer Road and Maria River Road are currently on the 6 month grading cycle. This is the highest priority for unsealed road grading in the Local Government Area. It is not considered equitable to remove resources from other areas to fund and undertake an additional grade for these two roads, noting that there are other unsealed roads in the Local Government Area road network that also highly trafficked.
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Sharp responded in line with the above response. According to residents, the grade done earlier this year was the best in at least 15 years if not ever. Most recently there was a grade but it was only 3 hours, so not a full grade.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to confirm that the latest grade was a maintenance grade only and not one of the 2 x annual major grades.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 4 Submitted</b>	What are Council plans to improve drainage on North Shore?
<b>Comments</b>	The North Shore is a significantly low lying area with sections that sit below high tide within the Hastings River. This means that it is not possible to effectively drain these areas without mechanical pumping processes and those areas that are above high tide are at significantly low gradients to drain. Given these topographic constraints there are exceptionally limited improvements that can be made.
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Directors Sharp &amp; Rogers responded in line with the above response. According to residents the back drain is working very well, however the side drains are largely blocked and overgrown so water has difficulty escaping into the back drain.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp will confirm where the replacement of the flood gates is up to, as well as the gate at the drain near the northern ferry ramp.</b></p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to confirm where maintenance responsibility lies for the drainage system.</b></p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to give consideration as to whether kerb and gutter would solve these drainage issues.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 5 Submitted</b>	Is Council aware of riverbank erosion near 50 Shoreline Drive? What steps will Council take to alleviate?
<b>Comments</b>	Council staff are aware of the erosion that is occurring at this location. The erosion is relatively low risk and has not progressed significantly over the last 5 years or so. There are no current plans to address this erosion. Staff are happy to meet with any concerned residents and discuss options for the future.
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Rogers responded in line with the above response. Aerial photographs show that there has been little erosion over the past few years.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Rogers will continue to look for grant funding opportunities for works in this area.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 6 Submitted</b>	Can North Shore have increased ranger presence on beach at tourist time?
<b>Comments</b>	Council Rangers make regular trips to the North Shore and the beach. Increased presence is scheduled during tourist periods as beach patrols are a priority issue for Rangers during these time. However, the extent of the Rangers presence on the North Shore is dictated by the resources available and the large areas required to be covered across the whole local government area.
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Rogers responded in line with the above response. Key issue is that locals buy permits, but it would appear that the majority of visitors do not, so why bother having a permit system at all. Councillor Turner confirmed that the funds from the permits are used to maintain beach access points. There is only approximately 3 klms of beach on the north side that does not allow vehicles, but that is constantly abused, so walking on the beach becomes a danger.</p> <p>There is a real safety issue for residents who like to walk on the southern part of the beach towards the breakwall, so there needs to be some effort to limit people turning right onto the beach. It was agreed that barricades would not do anything as people would simply remove them.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Rogers to investigate whether professional fisherman are not required to have a permit and if they are allowed access all year round or just at certain times of the year. Is this part of some formal Regulation?</b></p> <p><b>Action - Directors Rogers &amp; Bulic to look at our beach signage as it appears to encourage beach access, whereas signage at Kempsey seemingly tries to discourage such access.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 7 Submitted</b>	<p>a) What steps have been taken to remove gravel from North Shore Beach car park?</p> <p>b) What progress is being made with upgrade of the beach car park?</p>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>As previously advised, Council will continue to stockpile road material for use in maintaining North Shore roads on the road reserve within the North Shore Beach car park.</p> <p>At this point in time, Council has no current plans to upgrade this car park area.</p>
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Sharp responded in line with the above response. For confirmation, the current year's budget does have funds for maintenance to the beach access point and consultation on this will begin in February 2016. Council are looking at whether there is any possibility following completion of the sewerage scheme of being able to store gravel near the pump station, thereby taking it from the beach car park. There are currently no plans to expand the beach car park.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to continue to investigate an alternate site for the gravel.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 8 Submitted</b>	<p>Installation of new signs have made no difference to dangerous traffic conditions a exit from ferry on Settlement Point Road.</p> <p>When will Council organise a meeting with Northside Progress Association representatives and the traffic engineer to discuss issues?</p>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>As previously advised, Council does not support the construction of traffic calming devices in this area due to other effects on roads users.</p> <p>Council's Traffic Engineer emailed NSPA President Kingsley Searle 3 December 2015 regarding arranging a meeting following the return to normal ferry operations.</p>
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Kingsley Searle provided an update of the meeting that took place on 3 December with Council's John Hanlon. John was of the view that we could move the traffic holding line back one space to allow more visibility coming off the ferry on the south side. It was noted that the main ferry signs on the north and south side are too large and block the views of traffic for people coming off the ferry and those moving on to the ferry. It was also agreed that the ferry signs were confusing with too much information on them.</p> <p>Director Sharp stated that a sign audit is to be conducted for both ferries in the coming months and this may result in new / reduced signs being placed at the ferries.</p> <p><b>Action - Director Sharp to report back to the NSPA at the completion of the signage audit.</b></p>

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 9 Submitted</b>	Has Council considered impact of precinct development at Settlement City on North Shore residents and tourist traffic?
<b>Comments</b>	Traffic was considered as part of the development of the Settlement City Precinct Structure Plan. Traffic studies revealed that impacts are likely to be felt in the immediate vicinity of the precinct and road capacity upgrades that will be required to in association with development have been identified.
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	Director Rogers responded in line with the above response. Traffic modelling and design was done as part of the work for the Settlement City precinct to ensure access was still appropriate for surrounding traffic and residents.

<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 10 Submitted</b>	<p>a) When will residents be able to organise plumbing on their sewerage system to be linked in?</p> <p>b) When will the system be completed and in operations?</p> <p>c) What are the breakdown of total costs to residents?</p> <p>d) Why isn't Council agreeing to rate discounts for low income residents?</p>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Connections can only proceed once the entire system is complete and fully operational. This is anticipated to occur in mid 2016. This has been the message from the time construction on the scheme commenced.</p> <p>Letters were sent to residents in November 2015 outlining the process for connection. This was to inform property owners of the steps required to prepare for connection.</p> <p>As per the information provided to residents in the June 2015 Fact Sheet, property owners will be required to pay for connecting property sanitary drains to the pressure sewer pump unit and decommissioning existing onsite systems. All sanitary discharge from the property is required to be connected to the pressure sewerage unity.</p> <p>Connection and decommissioning costs will depend on the individual property, the location of the pressure sewer unity and the size of the existing onsite system. As a guide, this cost is estimated to be \$1,500 - \$3,000. This estimate is inclusive of the Section 68 application fee of \$240. Council will be providing a reduced annual sewer availability charge of \$738 to cover the estimated power usage for those properties with pressure systems.</p> <p>Council cannot apply different rates to every individual. It should be noted that there are pensioner rebates available; however negotiating different charges for each individuals circumstances is not practical.</p> <p>Further to the above, Council has engaged with the contractors, Ledonne, to ensure that residents are well informed regarding the progress of this project. Residents were given the opportunity to meet with Ledonne representatives to have questions answered and were also provided with the details of contact persons should further questions arise. A number of residents have taken the opportunity to make contact and should feel supported by Council to continue to do same.</p>
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Sharp responded in line with the above response and clarified issues surrounding the S68 applications and inspections etc, noting that all this information was contained in a Fact Sheet distributed widely before and during the sewerage scheme project. There was confirmation that no one can connect to the scheme until the entire scheme is finished in around mid 2016. Residents will be required to engage a plumber to connect the system and to decommission septic systems. It was</p>

	suggested that the NSPA might like to run an Expression of Interest process for a panel of plumbers that residents could use for the connections etc.
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<b>Applicant</b>	Northside Progress Association Inc.
<b>Question 11 Submitted</b>	<p>a) With improved parking and traffic arrangements for ferry access at Kangaroo Park, will Council consider the value of the land to it and the residents, particularly during ferry slipping and stoppages?</p> <p>b) Will Council support our draft proposal for recreational facilities including a community garden?</p>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Council has been approached and given consideration to a number of activities in this area on the condition that they are temporary due to this land being the subject of the Land Review that is currently in progress.</p> <p>Council continues to support temporary activities in order to ensure the space remains vibrant whilst longer term considerations are made through the above-mentioned review.</p> <p>It should be noted that ferry slipping only occurs every 4 years and alternatives to parking at these times can be investigated.</p>
<b>Meeting Notes / Actions</b>	<p>Director Bulic responded in line with the above response. Consultation with the community will take place early in 2016 regarding some local playground upgrades as well as in relation to a community garden / general beautification. The residents reiterated that Kangaroo Park is a valuable piece of public land that the community values - it is like their Town Green.</p> <p>There is concern that recently Council provided sewer connections to the 8 x lots that make up Kangaroo Park, which has been seen by some as a move by Council to sell this land. The decision to sewer the lots were taken by the Small Village Sewer Scheme Steering Group and were simply seen as a logical opportunity to do so.</p> <p>As detailed in the response above, the land will form part of the land review that Council is undertaking, noting that this is not set for discussion with Councillors until mid 2016.</p>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  1.	Praise for the way in which Ledonne have gone about their work with the sewer project. However is it possible for them to water the site in an effort to stop so much dust blowing into local residences?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	Action - Director Sharp to give this consideration.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  2.	Can Council erect Brown Snake signs to warn people of the snakes in the dunes?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	There was general discussion around not wanting to away from the aesthetic of a place with too many signs.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  3.	In Council tourism brochures etc, can Council please emphasise that people need a beach permit?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<b>Action - Director Bulic will take this on notice and discuss it with the economic development team for future consideration.</b>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  4.	Will the north shore even have a bridge to the south side? If Council sells Kangaroo Park then access for the bridge will be taken away.
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	The Mayor responded by stating that there was no discussion in Council of a bridge at this point in time and nothing planned.

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>5.</b>	Historically Santa arrives at 8:00am on Christmas Day via the ferry, providing presents to the children, organised by parents. Word has it that this year the ferry operators will not be doing this due to WHS concerns.
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<b>Action - Director Sharp to speak to Ferrymen with regard to this issue and will get back to Kingsley Searle with the outcome.</b>

<b>Question Raised from the Floor</b>  <b>6.</b>	Can the residents still decorate the ferries for Christmas as they have in previous years?
<b>Meeting Notes / Action</b>	<b>Action - Director Sharp to speak to Ferrymen with regard to this to ensure it is OK.</b>